

The Political Thought of Karl Jaspers – Abstract

The aim of the dissertation was to interpret the thinking of Karl Jaspers as an endeavour to clarify the connecting lines between the basic characteristics of human being and its historical and political dimensions. In the book we reconstructed Jaspers' spiritual development from systematic-theoretical research to the engagement of a public intellectual. As his main legacy are shown the importance of the inseparability, of a mutual cultivation and prove of philosophical foundation and historical being as well as exploration. Jaspers is presented as an important participant in the discussions about the problems of German society from the 1930s to the 1960s, whose contribution laid not in a philosophically "more abstract" analysing of problems, but in discovering that social and political being cannot do without philosophical self-reflection of man, of the structure of human existence and knowledge and of the principal values derived from it. In his confrontations with the situation of German culture, politics and society, Jaspers enriched the public debate by cultivating the philosophical and methodical consciousness. He emphasized the distinctions between the nature and instruments of the different spheres of human spirit (of sciences, religion, philosophy or action) and the integration of the solutions of contemporary problems into the spiritual history and unity of humanity. The book analyzes the whole of Jaspers' work and action in terms of the political consequences and formulations of Jaspers' attitudes. A special attention is paid to Jaspers' confrontations with the German spiritual tradition and present and to his approaches to history and historiography in general. The reconstruction of his interpretations of the German cultural and political history is enriched by the explanation of unpublished materials to Jaspers' unfinished books on German national consciousness and on his pupil Hannah Arendt.